

The Ransburg YMCA facility, which seeks to strengthen the mental, physical and spiritual well-being of its members, is a cornerstone on the Indianapolis Eastside that has responded to the critical social needs of its residents for decades. The legacy of this community center is as diverse as its 9,500 members, touching the lives of individuals of every age and background.

In addition to promoting better health and wellness, the Ransburg YMCA has provided an environment for families and for individuals to build strong bonds to become dynamic and engaged citizens. Through its child outreach programs, this YMCA has sought to reinforce positive values and foster the commitment for community service amongst children.

It is important to mention that the Ransburg YMCA would not have reached this milestone without its dedicated staff, volunteers and community members. I would like to salute them for the hard work and support that made this milestone possible.

I ask my colleagues to join me congratulating the Harper J. Ransburg YMCA as it celebrates its 50th anniversary and hope that the next 50 years bring this center, and the Indianapolis Eastside community, continued success.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I submit documentation consistent with the Republican Earmark Standards.

Requesting Member: Congressman JOE BARTON

Bill Number: H.R. 2996—FY10 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill

Account: Capital Improvement and Maintenance (construction)

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: Davy Crockett National Forest

Address of Receiving Entity: 18551 State Highway 7 East, Kennard, TX 75847-7207

Description of Request: I have secured \$475,000 in funding in H.R. 2996 in the Capital Improvement and Maintenance account for the Davy Crockett National Forest.

The funding would be used for developing a detailed site plan, redesigning and upgrading the camping loops, utilities, control systems, facilities, road and parking improvements as well as repairing the historic Dam and spillway.

HONORING THE MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD AT THE DISABLED VETERANS REST CAMP, MARINE ON SAINT CROIX, MINNESOTA

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, those who return home after serving our Nation, often changed and scarred by their experi-

ences, deserve special recognition and honor. The Disabled Veterans Rest Camp at Marine on St. Croix provides a sanctuary and gathering place for veterans and their families to connect and heal with one another. I rise today, Madam Speaker, to honor the members of the Minnesota National Guard who have spent the past weeks helping to restore the Disabled Veterans Rest Camp so military families from across the Nation can continue to enjoy its tranquility.

For the last several weeks, the Guard has volunteered their time and engineering expertise as part of their training to restore buildings, update facilities and address the needs that come with a nearly century-old campsite. I applaud these Guardsmen and women for giving back to their fellow uniformed service members. I also want to thank our Croatian allies that are sharing in this joint deployment with the Minnesota Guard. We are very grateful that they are able and willing to help our American veterans.

The site started as a camp for World War I disabled veterans in 1926 and has seen expansion and contraction over the years. I first became familiar with it as a State Senator when it faced potential demise in 2005—a fate I was proud to have had at least a small hand in defeating. Maintaining this camp—which has a treasured place in my heart, as do the veterans it serves—as a place for disabled veterans to call their own is one of my proudest moments in my public service career.

A board of representatives from veterans' organizations runs the site and is actively involved in preserving the purpose of the camp. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Minnesota Guard for paying it forward to the men and women who have sacrificed so much for our country. The tireless hours they have given at the Veterans Rest Camp are just one representation of our duty to our veterans—to serve them with gratitude and respect. We should all take these citizen-soldiers' example to heart each day, as we live in a free and prosperous land and owe it all to our veterans.

CELEBRATING THE LOS ANGELES LAKERS 2009 NBA CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution "Celebrating the Los Angeles Lakers 2009 NBA Championship". This legislation will commemorate the Los Angeles Lakers 15th National Basketball Association Championship. Prior to the 2008–2009 season, the Lakers won 14 National Basketball Association (NBA) championships, with a cast of Hall of Fame players and coaches, which included NBA greats such as Jerry West, Wilt Chamberlain, Earvin "Magic" Johnson, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Shaquille O'Neal, Pat Riley, and current head coach Phil Jackson.

This season Kobe Bryant, Lamar Odom, Derek Fisher, and Pau Gasol led the 2008–2009 Lakers to a 65–17 regular season record and the #1 spot in the Western Conference Playoffs. The Lakers entered the NBA playoffs with home court advantage as a result of the team's regular season performance. In the first

round the Lakers defeated the Utah Jazz in 5 games to advance to the Western Conference semifinals. The Lakers then faced the Houston Rockets in the Western Conference semifinals, winning in 7 games; advancing to the Western Conference Finals where they faced the Denver Nuggets.

The Lakers clinched the Western Conference finals in 6 games, thanks to the outstanding play by Pau Gasol and Kobe Bryant, which closed out the series. In the NBA Finals, the Lakers matched up with the Orlando Magic, led by Dwight Howard. The Lakers won the first 2 games of the finals in Los Angeles, including a hard-fought Game 2 during which Kobe Bryant and Pau Gasol combined for 53 points propelling the Lakers to a 101–96 victory. The Lakers lost Game 3 in Orlando by a score of 108–104; however, Lakers' guard Kobe Bryant scored 31 points and played all but 8 minutes of the game. The Lakers followed their loss in Game 3, by winning the next two games in Orlando to win the 2009 NBA Championship.

For his outstanding play during the NBA Finals, Lakers' guard Kobe Bryant was presented with the Bill Russell NBA Finals Most Valuable Player Award; and his fourth NBA Championship. Lakers head coach Phil Jackson, won his 10th NBA Championship as a head coach and his 12th NBA Championship overall. Congratulations to the Lakers players, coaches, and staff on winning the 2008–2009 NBA Championship.

HONORING CITY OF OAKLAND PARK

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the 80th anniversary of the City of Oakland Park in Florida's 20th Congressional District.

This once sleepy little town that was home to mostly farmers is now a bustling city with more than 43,000 residents.

Oakland Park is one of the older municipalities in Broward County. In fact, it was originally chartered as the town of Floranada in 1925.

But in September 1926 a hurricane devastated the area. In 1929, city leaders renamed it Oakland Park after the massive oaks that lined the community.

Residents and visitors can tour a piece of history always on display in this fine city. A portion of its oldest elementary school, Oakland Park Elementary School, is a nationally registered historical site. The school was built in 1927 and is the oldest school in continuous operation in Broward County.

The city is also at the forefront of innovation in Florida. It was the first municipality in the state to organize a public safety department. Oakland Park was also the first City to initiate a recycling program.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mayor Steven Arnst, the Members of the City Commission, and the city's staff for their many accomplishments that have made the City of Oakland Park a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2647, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. RANDY FORBES

Bill Number: H.R. 2647

Account: Research and Development, Defense Wide, Joint Experimentation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Office of Commonwealth Preparedness, Commonwealth of Virginia

Address of Requesting Entity: Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23218

Description of Request: Provides \$2,700,000 for a Tidewater Full-Scale Exercise, to enhance the Commonwealth of Virginia's interdiction, response and recovery capabilities to a WMD event through the conduct of a multi-agency, maritime Full-Scale Exercise, utilizing the experience and unique capabilities of the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Asymmetric Warfens (CAW) and Old Dominion University's Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center (VMASC).

Requesting Member: Congressman J. RANDY FORBES

Bill Number: H.R. 2647

Account: Military Construction

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Fort Lee

Address of Requesting Entity: 3901 A Avenue, Fort Lee, VA, 23801

Description of Request: Provides \$5,000,000 in the Defense Access Road (DAR) Program which provides a means for the military to pay a share of the cost of public highway improvements necessary to mitigate an unusual impact of a defense activity. This project would fund a roundabout at Adams Avenue at the entrance to Fort Lee to alleviate traffic congestion and improve vehicular and pedestrian safety, following the installation's growth resulting from the 2005 BRAC Round.

INTRODUCING THE FOREIGN ADOPTED CHILDREN EQUALITY ACT OF 2009

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, today my colleague Rep. DIANE WATSON and I are introducing the Foreign Adopted Children Equality Act of 2009. This bicameral, bi-partisan bill is designed to improve upon the Child Citizenship Act of 2000, which was enacted to provide automatic U.S. citizenship to internationally adopted children of American citizens.

International adoption has been a rewarding experience for many families across the United States. However, it is a process that is stressful, complicated, and costly. The FACE Act is intended to cut through some of the

paper work and to treat internationally adopted children as we treat children born abroad to American citizens.

Under the Child Citizenship Act, an internationally adopted child of a U.S. citizen receives U.S. citizenship once the child enters the U.S. to reside permanently. Once in the U.S., the child then has to go through the naturalization process. The FACE Act is intended to improve this process in many ways.

First, it would amend the CCA so that once an international adoption is completed by an American citizen and the adopted child is determined to be adoptable under U.S. law, citizenship would attach. Therefore, instead of parents having to apply for a costly visa to bring their newly adopted child home to the United States, they would apply for a U.S. passport and Consular Report of Birth, making the process that of what is required from American citizen parents whose child is born while abroad. Passports are much less expensive than visas, and once in the U.S., the passport and Consular Report of birth would serve as proof of U.S. citizenship streamlining the application process for a social security card, filing for the adoption tax credit or even enrolling the child into school thus eliminating additional paperwork burdens for these new parents.

In addition, the FACE Act allows for internationally adopted children who are now over the age of 18 and who were not naturalized by their adoptive parents, to apply for and receive citizenship without going through the naturalization process, if they so desire. Unfortunately there are many cases where adoptive parents failed to naturalize their internationally adopted children prior to their 18th birthdays and prior to passage of the CCA in 2000. Many of these children grow up believing they are U.S. citizens only to find out they are not when they try to register to vote, enlist in the military, or apply for college. There are even cases of these children being deported to their country of origins, where they do not speak the native language nor know the culture, for committing misdemeanors. This act seeks to rectify this situation and give these children the privilege of two heritages—that of their country of origin and of their new home, the United States.

Finally, this act seeks to amend Section 301 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, the section of law that provides U.S. citizenship from birth to biological children of American citizens who are born abroad. The FACE act would add internationally adopted children of American citizens to this section providing them citizenship from birth. Thus, internationally adopted children would be given the same opportunities given to American children born abroad, such as the chance to run for President.

Together, these changes would finally treat internationally adopted children of American citizens as children of American citizens instead of as immigrants and would provide them equality with biological children born abroad to American citizens.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO EDWIN G. SUAREZ

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise with great sadness as I remember the life of my good friend and former Rangel Staff Alumni, Edwin G. Suarez. As I speak with profound sorrow, I ascend to celebrate a life well lived and to remember with fondness the accomplishments of a remarkable man who, over his many years, etched his name in history as a visionary and innovator who enriched and transformed housing projects and programs in my beloved East Harlem and the City of New York.

Edwin, a man whose life, to a remarkable degree, embodied the reverie of the American dream, was a great man of distinction which reflected his grand Puerto Rican heritage. Born on August 13, 1940, Edwin was a longtime community leader who devoted many years to the betterment of East Harlem. He was born and raised in Manhattan, as the only son of Avelino Suárez and Julia González Suarez and dedicated his life to giving back to his beloved city as an urban planner dedicated to doing his part to ensure safe and affordable housing for all.

In his capacity as a housing manager for the City of New York, and with the NAACP as a sponsor, Edwin was able to travel the world in order to confer with his counterparts in great urban centers, including those in Japan, Ecuador, Italy, France, Holland and Scandinavia. He returned from these fact-finding missions with critical information used to improve the various housing projects and programs in New York City's East Harlem community.

Edwin proceeded to touch more lives when he entered the political arena as an elected District Leader of the 68th New York State Assembly District, Part B. He also served as my Special Legislative Assistant and served as my Congressional Liaison to my East Harlem constituents, a position he served with a tremendous sense of professionalism. He went on to serve on numerous community and municipal boards, including President of the Metro North Housing and Development Corporation, and Vice President of the Union Settlement Federal Credit Union.

The death of Edwin Suarez on June 20, 2006, brought immense sorrow and loss to his family and friends, countless community leaders and colleagues in government, and me personally. He is survived by his three children, Darlene Suárez Casey, Edwin Suárez II and Desiree J. Suárez; his only grandchild, Jasmine Suárez Osorio van Wijgerden, and his former wife, Josephine Suárez Reyes. Such a benevolent amalgamation of intellect, steadfastness, and vigor as that demonstrated by Edwin over a lifetime of sacrifice and dedication to others will greatly be missed.

This past weekend, on June 20, 2009, Edwin was memorialized by those that loved and cherished him with the renaming of the Northwest corner of East 101st Street and First Avenue in my district. It is my hope that this act will help preserve the memory of this remarkable man, not only for the benefit of those who knew him but for all who value the promise of America.